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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, and 17-79 are pending. Claims 1, 32, 35-38, 51-52, and 63-64 have been amended. Claims 2 and 11-16 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 80-83 were withdrawn from consideration. The remaining claims are unchanged.

Applicant's attorney thanks the Examiner for discussing the above-identified application in the telephone interview of January 23, 2007.

As requested by the Examiner in the January 23rd interview, Applicant's attorney has amended the claims to remove the terms "application-level," when referring to messages.

In addition, as discussed in the January 23rd interview, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the feature of determining of a route path for delivery of a message, as recited in newly amended paragraph (b):

> (b) determining a route path for delivery of said ~~application-level~~ message to said one or more recipient services, said route path including one or more in-transit services, wherein said determining being based on one or more of: ~~a reference to a service identified in said header element,~~ a routing script defined by a sending service, a routing script defined by a recipient service, and a routing script defined by an in-transit service, **such that each service is capable of independently affecting said determining of said route path.**

The above amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Support can be found in the published version of the application, Pub. No. US 20030041178, for example, in paragraphs 41, 42, 66-70, 122, and 128, and FIG. 4.

As explained in the specification, in one embodiment, routing scripts define a procedure for enabling determination of at least part of a route. (Pub. No. 20030041178, paragraph 67). The calculated route can be based on routing instructions specified explicitly in the message header and/or on routing scripts pre-defined by the sending service 310, recipient service 360, or any in-transit services 350 that have been included within the calculated route. (paragraph 66). Routing scripts can specify a sequence of services that operate on either inbound or outbound messages for a service. (paragraph 68).

For example, the sending service 310 may specify a routing script that requires a cross-reference mapping service to be included in the calculated route whenever sending service 310 sends a message to recipient service 360. (paragraph 69). In another example, recipient service 360 may specify a routing script that requires that any incoming request messages must first pass

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through a filter service to block messages from a list of sending services 310. (paragraph 69). Thus, routing scripts enable recipient services 360 to require services 350 to be in the calculated route, regardless of the sending service's route specification. (paragraph 70; Emphasis added). In-transit services may themselves have routing scripts requiring processing by other services. (paragraph 68). Therefore, the route calculation can be recursively defined based upon routing scripts specified by all services that interact with the message. (paragraph 68). Thus, each service is capable of independently affecting the determination of the route path.

For example, in FIG. 4, the route path is based on routing scripts defined by various services. In this example, the included services in the route path are, in order, Transmatics (XSLT) service 406, XpandiCo service 408, Transmatics (replaceElement) service 410, and KeepEmOut.com service 412. (paragraph 128). In this example, services 406, 408, and 410 are added to the route list in accordance with routing scripts defined for sending service 402, while service 412 is added to the route list in accordance with routing scripts defined for recipient service 404. (paragraph 122).

As discussed in the January 23rd interview, Ghoneimy does not disclose or suggest the above-quoted features of claim 1. Ghoneimy only describes a system and method for automating work processes, that "ensures that business processes follows predetermined rules" and that "each task in the process is regulated such that the appropriate people have access to the appropriate data and are instructed to perform the task at the appropriate time." (Abstract).

The method of claim 1 specifies that the route path for delivery of the message is determined based on one or more routing scripts defined by a sending service, a recipient service, and an in-transit service, regardless of any predetermined rules. Thus, the various services that participate in the routing, that is, the sending service, the recipient service, and/or an in-transit service, are capable of independently affecting the determination of the route path. There is no passage in Ghoneimy that teaches determining a route path for delivery of a message based on one or more routing scripts defined by such services, much less "such that each service is capable of independently affecting said determining of said route path," as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Ghoneimy. Thus, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 32, 51, 52, 63, and 64, were rejected on the same grounds as claim 1. These claims have been amended to recite similar features as claim 1. Therefore, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for similar reasons as above.
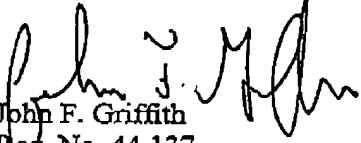
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The various dependent claims incorporate all of the features of the independent claims on which they are based and, therefore, are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious for at least the reasons discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicant believes the pending claims are allowable for the reasons above and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below if the Examiner has any remaining questions or concerns regarding the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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